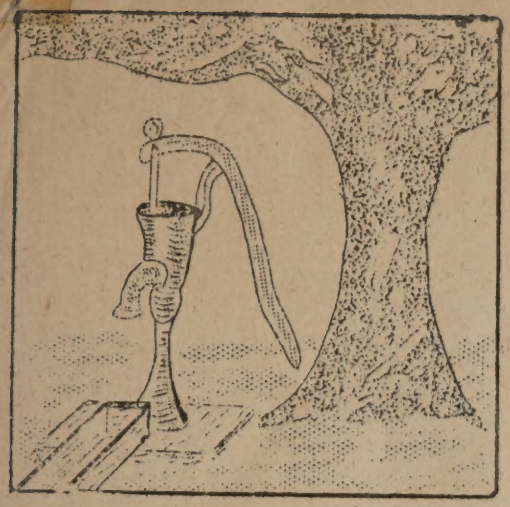

THE ASHBY TOWN PUMP

VOL. I SEPTEMBER, 1944 NO. 4

It was an odd experience to turn back the pages of history and read an account of the Civil War-when one enlisted for- "five years or sooner-shot". The similarity of the fears, hardships, complaints and joys of the men in the service during the n and now is amazing.

In reading Capt. C.W. Whitney's Civil War memoirs it is interesting to recall his complaining of " the burning sun of the Mississippi, the deadly malaria of the Yazoo, the freezing cold and corn cob rations of Tennesee." He also quotes General Sheridan,who in describing and admitting his moments of fear said,"Fear, of course I had fear. It is something that comes over a man, which I cannot find words to describe.It comes to us when we first go into battle, but after we get engaged, it passes off, and we strive to gain Victory."

He mentions marching 55 miles in 48 hours and going straightforth into battle. Wonder if that strikes a familiar note to the infantrymen of today. If not, certainly this must. After four continuous days of severe battle, in a steady downpour of rain, his company was exhausted and disheartened,"but the arrival of an unusually large mail caused much joy in camp and more than compensated," etc. . Not far from the situation of today,which we hope will soon be ended.

Major Melvin H. Partridge

Many readers will be glad to know what has happened to "Mel" Partridge, son of Frank E. Partridge of the Ashby Tavern. "Mel" started out at Officers Training School in Miami in 1943. After this training he was stationed at Presque Isle,Maine, as a 1st Lt. and Personnel Officer. In June, 1943, with the rank of Captain,he was assigned as Classification Officer for the North Atlantic Division. From September to November he conducted a classification survey of the North Atlantic Division during which he visited Newfoundland. Labrador,Greenland and Iceland

In March, as Major Partridge,he was assigned as Assistant Chief of Personnel for the North Atlantic Wing, stationed at Manchester, N.H. Since then he has visited North Africa, England, Scotland. and Iceland. While in England he spent three days with his cousin, Major General Earl E. Partridge. Through the courtesy of Lt. Gen. Jimmie Doolittle, Major Partridge toured London and was able to see the preparations being made for D-day.

Major Partridge is married to the former Mary Woodcock of Ashburnham,who, with their two children,Tommy and Sue, is spending the summer in Manchester.

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Lt.Owen Lafley is now in this country,having completed his 50 bombing missions.Lt.Lafley is the husband of Ruth Robbins Lafley.

Richard Robbins is still in New Caledonia and writes of having to stay up until 2:30 A.M. one day to help clean 1500 lbs.of fish."Rich" said he really got tired of looking at fish after the first few hours.

S/Sgt. Eino Malm,who is stationed at Hawaii,has completed an intensive swimming course and is now an instructor in swimming there.

Pvt. Mark Thatcher,who is stationed at Camp Blanding,Fla. , writes,"They sure keep us busy down here. I used to think my ten hour day was pretty long, but that would seem like child's play now." Mark enjoyed all the home town news he found in the "Town Pump".

Bill Hemlin S-2/C has recently been home on furlough and has now returned to Sampson, N.Y. where he is in the outgoing unit awaiting assignment.

Mr. and Mrs. John Flinkstrom have received word that their son Pvt. Walter is in India, and his brother, Pvt. John, is in New Guinea.

Sgt. Edwin Tiilikkala of Greenville Road arrived in France recently.

Mrs. Leslie Kincaid has received word that her husband,Pvt. Leslie Kincaid, has arrived in India.

Mrs. Harold LaRoche(Eleanor Ballou) has received word that her husband, stationed at Whiting Field,Milton,Fla. has been promoted to Motor Machinist Mate 3 rd class in refrigeration.

Cpl.Wallace Johnson has arrived in England according to word received by his parents,Mr. and Mrs. Karl Johnson,Davis Road.

Kenneth R. Miller,brother of Irving Miller,writes from Santa Monica, Cal."If ever one of the Ashby boys are out this way, tell them to be sure and get in touch with me and I will show them around the town. My name is in the phone book.Be sure and give me a ring."

Mr.Miller goes on to say that he has received the first two copies of the "Town Pump" and that he found them intensely interesting. He hopes he will be able to have future numbers. He thinks the paper a splendid idea and that the name was emblematic of Ashby. He remembers when he was 10 or 11 years old, how many times he pumped the handle of the old town pump.

Edwin Walker, who recently enlisted in the Merchant Marine, spent the week-end of Aug.26th with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Walker."Sonny" is now back at Sheep's Head Bay,N.Y., after a few weeks ship training.

Bob Varney is now with "Sonny" again after a month's separation. One is in Barracks No.5 and one in No.7.Bob recently spent a short time in the hospital for treatment.

3/C P.O. Thomas Hansen,who has been stationed at Key West for some months, has been transferred to Boston for a 16-week course at Franklin Institute. His brother Andy,who is a 2/C P.O. in the Coast Guard, is doing convoy duty and his base is a southern port.

Pfc.Chester William Hardy is with the Army Air Force.His address is 31187732-Casual Sq. A3 A.P.O. 16127A,c/o Postoffice, New York,N.Y.
Chester joined up in November, 1942.A letter written by him last June 19th tells that he was at sea and had crossed the equator.

We have just seen a recent issue of "Postings", the newspaper at Patterson Field, Fairfield, Ohio. In it we found a grand picture of our Lt. Aura Louhi who is the head dietician there at the station hospital. Lt. Louhi says "People not only are more finicky about their food when ill, but also must have special diets, which means they have a big job and an exacting one. Proper diet may mean the difference between a rapid recovery and a lingering illness. In some ways it's a delicate combination of what they want and what's good for them. Sometimes it's better to let sick people think they are getting what they want. It makes them feel better and then we feed them what the doctor orders."

Walter Raymond Hardy-S 1/C is with the 15 C.B.Bn.Co. A. His address is c/o Fleet Postmaster, San Francisco, California. Walter joined the service in December 1942 at 17 years of age. He trained for P.T. Boats and 50 calibre machine gun operations. A letter received from him August 17th last, was written from the Southwest Pacific area, and reports all is well.

Marston E. Page A.E.M.3/C is still hanging on in Miami Naval Air Station. A recent letter reads that he is on engine over-haul. "Flash" gets lots of "kicks", some from electric hot shots but more from hot sun beams. Just wouldn't want to express "Flash's" description of the latter.

Robert Pollock S-2/C who is now stationed in the Pacific war area, has written his appreciation of the "Town Pump".

Mrs. Edwin Connor (Evelyn Rackliffe) has received word that her husband has been promoted to S/Sgt. Sgt. Connor has been in the army two years and is stationed at Syracuse, New York at present.

Cpl.Tech.Louis Berry, Jr. has been home recently and spent a week with his family on West Main Street.

Cpl.Blair Arsenault, after having spent a 15-day furlough with his wife at the home of his family, has returned to Westover Field, where he will await orders to leave for overseas duty.

Everett H. Rackliffe, son of Mr.& Mrs. Leidy Rackliffe, recently graduated from the clerical school at the army service forces training center at Camp Grant, Illinois.

P.F.C. Albert Olson, who is in the Medical Corps, has arrived overseas. Albert writes that it's hard to believe he's in another country. To him, it looks a lot like Long Island Sound.

Lt. Dorothy Bernhardt, a member of the Army Nurse Corps, and youngest daughter of Fred A.Bernhardt Sr., is attached to Lt. Gen. Patton's army in France.

Bob Leighton was home May 12th for two weeks. He returned to N.Y. to continue his service as Armed Guard Gunner on the newly assigned S.S.Wm.Dunbar merchant ship.

Dick Leighton is in the Marine Corps, as you may know. His parents have heard from him very recently and he writes that he got a great kick out of the Bob Hope show. "Best thing that has happened so far" says Dick.

Many former graduates of Ashby and townspeople will remember Priscilla Fletcher, who was on the faculty of the High School, and might be interested to know that Priscilla has suffered the loss of her only brother, who was in the Air Corps in Italy. The family was terribly shocked at the news as they were looking forward to his homecoming which

[illegible] H. [illegible] Mrs. Leidy [illegible] graduated from [illegible] school at the army [illegible] training center at [illegible] Illinois.

P.F.C. Albert Olson, [illegible] Medical Corps, has [illegible] overseas. Albert writes hard to believe he's in country. To him, it look like Long Island Sound.

Lt. Dorothy Bernhardt, of the Army Nurse Corps, youngest daughter of Fred A. [illegible] hardt [illegible], is attached to Lt. [illegible] Patton [illegible] in France.

Bob [illegible] was home May [illegible] for [illegible]. He returned [illegible] N.Y. [illegible] his service [illegible] Armed [illegible] under on the newly assigned [illegible] Dunbar merchant ship.

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should have been soon, as he only had a few missions to complete.

TOWN NEWS

Fire at Asa Allen's

One of the most destructive fires for a long time destroyed the large barn and contents belonging to Asa Allen on the afternoon of Aug. 19. The fire had gained much headway before it was discovered by Mr. Allen and others working on the place. The fire department responded but was unable to save the barn which was completely destroyed within a short time. The home, separated only by a driveway from the barn, was saved only by strenuous work by the firemen. A good supply of water was available. Besides much farm equipment and furniture, a calf was included in the loss. The loss was estimated at $ 5000, covered by insurance.

" Model T "

An amusing sideline to the very serious fire at Asa Allen's was the performance of our old reliable Model "T". The ladder truck with a doubtful appearance and a high nosed 192-(?) model "T" Ford engine was the hero of the fire. With the barn in full blaze and a wind coming up, the house proper was seriously threatened. For some reason the two big pumpers failed to pump water immediately, but good old Model "T" gave one cough and started to spurt a stream of water that when applied to the house, saved the day.

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For probably the first time in the history of the Town, Ashby had a row all its own in the Burbank Hospital. Recently, Fred Bingham who was suffering from an infected leg, Kendall Crocker, Bessie Piper, Madeline Woodruff and Mrs. Perrault (Mrs. Milton Barrett's mother) were all in the hospital at the same time. We are happy to report, however, that there is no longer any use for Ashby Row. Everyone is home and doing fine.

Mrs. Ida Hjelm, whose occupation for the last 23 years has been farming, has just recently taken her first vacation in all this time. She visited friends in Lebanon, N.H.

Hats Off to the Salesladies of the Thrift Shop

Walter Piper, thinking to find the gift unusual for his wife Bessie while she was at Burbank Hospital, visited the popular Ashby Thrift Shop. Here he purchased a green card table cover at 25¢. He pocketed his change (which by the way, he lost out of his pocket soon after) and with eyes agleam proceeded to the hospital. Bessie thanked Walter, but her joy was short lived, when she beheld her own cover that she had recently donated to the shop.

Edwin Lord Sr. is a patient at the Soldiers Home Hospital, Chelsea Mass. He is receiving treatments for a heart ailment. His condition is much improved, however, since going there early in June. A Sunshine Box was recently sent to him by a number of Ashby friends. He reported having a grand time opening it.

"Eddie" Lord Jr. is working in the Shipping Dept. at the American Type Founders for the summer. "Eddie" goes back to A.H.S. as a Junior this year.

Skunks on a Rampage

In our last issue, we had a very amusing article about Billie Seymour and his encounter with a skunk. Shortly after this episode, another amusing tale came to the front concerning a skunk at the Frank Lyman's. It seems that one day there were many complaints about the peculiar odor of the water, all strongly denied by the master of the house until a hot shower brought definite aroma and a quick and intensive search. Poor Johnny Skunk, the root of all evil, had fallen into the well.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

There has been a report about town that we have a "Peeping Tom" in Ashby. Erno Martinen, better known to you all as "Marty" said "Now, what is there to peek at in Ashby ?"!!!

FAMILY REUNION

The 46th annual reunion of the descendants of Stephen and Rachel Brooks was held last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Piper with 34 persons present. The oldest member attending was Mrs. Jennie Thomas of Framingham and the youngest, Candice Brooks of Gardner. Over 30 members are in different branches of the armed service.

The Ashby Finnish Farmers Association recently sponsored a dance at Maja Hall. The sum of $ 56.61 was raised and donated to the Ashby Servicemen's Committee to purchase Christmas gifts for the servicemen and women. The committee included Mr.& Mrs. V. Malm, Mr. & Mrs. Hjalmar Joki, Mrs. Jennie Hietela and Mr. & Mrs. Otto Louhi.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Woodruff and son Dick, have moved to their home at 335 Blossom Street, Fitchburg. The Woodruff home on Piper Road has been leased to Kenneth C. Mackey of Cambridge. He and his family expect to move in around Sept.1st.

Fred Mason is fixing up his garage. New cement floors, at a lower level, will give Freddie three sizeable stalls, and an additional shelter will house his compressor, battery charger and furnace.

SUMMER CAMPS

Ashby is rapidly becoming known as the camp resort of the State. Nearly 1000 boys and girls have been spending parts of the summer season here in our healthy town. Two camps alone, Camp Lapham and Camp Middlesex, have cared for 800 young people. Camp Lapham, located on South Road just this side of the John Fitch monument, is exclusively a girl's camp. Every two weeks during the summer 90 girls from Boston and vicinity come to spend two weeks vacation. Needless to say, these youngsters derive much benefit from the country environment. Mrs. McGinnis has been the camp director this season.

Camp Middlesex, the 4-H club in South Village, has been the vacation resort for 300 boys and girls of Middlesex County. This is an ideal spot for a camp as besides having suitable buildings for recreation, administration and dining, there are many acres of fields and woodland where the young people may study outdoor life in all its phases.

Miss Dorothy White was the camp director, assisted by George Erickson, 4-H club director for Middlesex County. Mrs. Carolyn Brooks was nurse for both Camp Middlesex and Camp Lapham.

Fraternity Farm, located on New Ipswich road at the former Shaw place, is owned and financed by the Benevolent Fraternity of Unitarian churches. This is the summer home of many persons from Boston who are sent by the various settlement houses in that city. Rev. and Mrs. Felix D. Lion of Lawrence were hosts and directors this season.

In addition to these camps, four troops (150) of Girl Scouts camped at Willard Brook reservation during the summer.

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Extension Not Granted

A sailor on leave, confronted with what he deemed an emergency, wired Mr. Henning :"Whosoever findest a wife, findeth a good thing."
Proverb 18:22."Therefore request is made for five days leave extension. My confidence in you tells me you'll agree."
Whereupon Mr. Henning replied: "Parting is such sweet sorrow. Romeo and Juliet, Act 11, Scene 2. Extension denied. My confidence in you assures me you'll be back on time."

[illegible] been a report about [illegible] "Parking Area" [illegible] Director [illegible] "Safety" said [illegible] to peek at in

[illegible] SUNDIAL

[illegible] Sixth annual reunion of the descendants of Reuben and Rachel [illegible] Brooks was held last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Gil- [illegible] per with [illegible] persons present. The [illegible] outstanding was Mrs. [illegible] of Framingham and [illegible] public Brooks of [illegible] Cambridge. [illegible] phone are in [illegible] different [illegible] than of the armed [illegible] service.

[illegible] The Lady [illegible] Indian Farm [illegible] Association [illegible] sponsored a dance at Belle [illegible] It [illegible] of $ 56.[illegible] was [illegible] to the Ashby Service [illegible] to purchase [illegible] the entertainment [illegible] Hal- [illegible] and

[illegible] and [illegible] home [illegible] The Goodwill [illegible] has been [illegible] Brook- [illegible] of Concord [illegible] and [illegible] family [illegible] to move [illegible] Lake.

Fred Bacon is fixing up his Ga- rage-new owner Florer. At a low- er level, will give Freddie three honest dollars, and an [illegible] tiferd [illegible] later will raise his compensation. [illegible] by observer and [illegible].

[illegible] CAMPS

[illegible] Camp [illegible] known as [illegible] camp resort [illegible]. Nearly 1000 boys [illegible] have been spending [illegible] of the summer season here in [illegible]. Two camps alone, [illegible] and Camp Middlesex, have served for 800 young people. Camp Lapham, located on South Road just this side of the John Fitch monument, is exclusively a girl's camp. Every two weeks

a [illegible] 90 girl- [illegible] vi [illegible] comp- [illegible]. Mr.

[illegible] old the [illegible] a [illegible] to [illegible] and [illegible] of [illegible] young [illegible] lit [illegible] Elias [illegible] different, [illegible] son, 4-H c[illegible] sex Coun[illegible]. [illegible] was run [illegible] and Gen[illegible]

Practically [illegible] road [illegible] place, is own [illegible] the Benevolent Unitarian Chur[illegible] summer home of [illegible] Boston [illegible] settlement, [illegible] Rev. and Mrs. [illegible] Lawrence were [illegible] this season.

In addition [illegible] troops (1[illegible]) of [illegible] at [illegible]illard Brook [illegible] during the summer.

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Extension Nor

A [illegible] on Jeav[illegible] with what to doomo[illegible] [illegible]ired Mr. Henning [illegible] "[illegible] finest c wife, finde[illegible] thing."

[illegible] Proverb 18:22. "There [illegible] is no for five day[illegible] [illegible]mation. My confiden[illegible] [illegible] ile me you'll appro[illegible] [illegible]person Mr. Homing [illegible] [illegible]thing is such sweet [illegible] home and valiot. Not if [illegible] Extension denied. My confi[illegible] [illegible] you assures me you'll [illegible] time."

Oh, see the happy little Moron
He doesn't give a Dam
I wish I were a Moron
My God, perhaps I am

SCHOOL NEWS

Summer is over and school bells are ringing again. Lyman school opened for the fall term on Wednesday September 6th. The enrollment is around 170, about the same number as last year. The janitor, George Elliott, has been very busy during the vacation period. The girl's basement has been painted grey and white which it has needed badly for a long time. The floors have been oiled, desk tops have been sanded and varnished and the windows washed. New cement porches and steps have been made and the lawn has been neatly mowed.

The former 4-H club carpentry shop has been renovated to accomodate the new manual training course which will be under the supervision of Claude Munson.

The faculty includes the following who were here last year; Principal and teacher, Waino I. Pernaa; Mrs. Elsie Guyer, and Miss Ann Tyer, high school; Miss Irene Hopkinson and Mrs. Dorothy McDowell primary grades. New teachers are Miss Elizabeth Hannant, grades five and six, Miss Boulay and Miss Hughes junior high.

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Boys, will you do us a favor ? In order that we can let others know where you are and what you are doing, would you write us, care of E.J. Lyman, about the type of work you are doing, where you are stationed and who you have seen. We don't want to get in trouble with the censors, but do tell us as much as you are allowed, as everyone is deeply interested in your work. In this way, you will help us to continue our work on the Town Pump. Or if you'll tell these things to your parents in your letters to them, perhaps they will pass the news on to us.

Nemoset Rebekah Lodge held a meeting last week when a report of the nominating committee was read and accepted. The next meeting will be held Sept. 12, when election of the officers will take place. Installation of officers will be held October 24th.

Ashby Grange has just purchased a new Service Flag for our Hall, having outgrown our old one. We now have 21 blue stars and 2 Gold Stars on our new flag, and we are very proud of our members serving in the Armed Forces. We have a class of 5 candidates so far, for our degrees in September and October and hope to be able to pass our 200 membership quota.

We have tried to keep in contact with our members during the summer by having a card party for the older ones and a dance scheduled for Aug. 25 for the young and old. Had two Summer picnics which were very well attended; also a table at one of the band concerts where we sold food, vegetables and fancy work. Our goal is to establish a fund with which to buy a large war bond this Fall to be put in our building fund, hoping that we may have a new Grange Hall in the not too distant future.

SERVICEMEN'S VOTE

This is a reminder to all servicemen, who will be 21 years of age by November 7, that the Absentee Voting Ballot is now ready for mailing. Applications for the ballot should be made to Arthur L. Wass, Town Clerk, and can be made by the voter himself or by an eligible relative. Do it Now !

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Rodney Caton	Oct. 6
Ralph Varney	Oct. 10
Francis Bennett	Oct. 11
Waldemar Tiilikkala	Oct. 12
Thomas Hansen	Oct. 14
Chester Hardy	Oct. 14
John Arenius	Oct. 19
Leon Evans	Oct. 20
Leonard Hayes	Oct. 21
Lester Hodgman	Oct. 30
Oscar Fors	Oct. 26

[illegible] school bells
[illegible] German soldiers
[illegible] full term on [illegible]
[illegible] The [illegible]
[illegible] around 1?, [illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible] Line [illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible] Billie [illegible] been [illegible] but
[illegible] the [illegible] on [illegible] to
[illegible] Billie's [illegible] has been [illegible] and
[illegible] and white which it has needed
[illegible] for a long time. The floor
have been oiled, desk tops have
been sanded and varnished and the
windows washed. New cement [illegible]
[illegible] and slope have been made and
the lawn has been neatly mowed.
[illegible] for [illegible] also commenting
[illegible] removed to [illegible]
[illegible] and [illegible] building
[illegible] will be under the [illegible]
[illegible] Minnesota.
[illegible] include the follow-
[illegible] Lund, [illegible]; [illegible]
[illegible] Walter I. Perman; [illegible]
[illegible] and Miss Ann
[illegible] Miss Irene Hop-
[illegible] Dorothy Dewell
[illegible] [illegible] are
[illegible] Clement, Gordon Tiv-
[illegible] and Ian Hughes

[illegible] Rockford [illegible] a half [illegible]
[illegible] report
[illegible] [illegible] was
[illegible] [illegible] week [illegible]
[illegible] 12, [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] arranged
[illegible] 11,
[illegible]
[illegible] a [illegible]
[illegible] 2 [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] a [illegible]
[illegible] so far, [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
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Letters to "Town Pump"

In the August issue,we quoted parts of letters from our boys in the service in regard to the "Town Pump", and it is with pleasure that we are able to quote still more letters from you.

Writes Pvt. Leslie Kincaid ----- "After a number of weeks of travelling around North Africa and India, my mail has finally caught up with me, a total of 110 letters in about 4 days, a nd with it I received the first two issues of the Ashby "Town Pump". Needless to say, I think you and your staff have done superb work and I certainly enjoyed it. The only thing I've got to say about India is that the sooner I get back to the States, the better I'll like it."

From Sgt. Clarence Elliott------ "I want to take this opportunity to let you know that I have received the first copy of your news letter--- I enjoyed it very much. The news from home and the other boys and girls in the service was of great interest.---Most of my friends received a lot of enjoyment from it also."

Len Hayes in writing from the Naval Air Station at Atlanta,Ga. thought the "Town Pump" was the best idea yet for keeping in contact with the home town, and particularly of the other boys in the Service. Len is an Aviation Machinist, and thinks he may be on the move in the not too distant future.

And from Sgt. "Bud" Piper,we hear; "...When I first heard of the publication,I thought it was a splendid idea and now that I've read two issues, I can honestly say that its the best and most complete news of Ashby, her servicemen, and townspeople, that I've read in my entire service... I was especially interested by the three brief biographies you presented in the second issue."

Ensign W. T. Parker has just returned to the States at San Pedro, California, after two long years of absence. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor at the outbreak of the war and has since spent considerable time there repairing warships. On his return the first issues of the "Town Pump" caught up with him, and after expressing his thanks, he said he was amazed to learn how many Ashby boys were in the Service.

Pvt. Allan Holmes sent us a card expressing his thanks, and said it was a wonderful feeling to know that the home folks are thinking of the boys in the Service.

Writes Francis P. Bennett------- "I have received the first issue of the "Town Pump",-- In reading the paper, I see that there are others from home in this area.It is like trying to find a needle in a haystack.---Thank you for sending me a copy of the paper. Although I am not strictly an Ashby boy,now, I feel that I have more connections there than I have in Townsend."

Wallace Elliott writes---------- "I received both issues of the "Town Pump" and I think it is a very nice paper.---You mentioned about Warren and Clarence seeing plenty of action. I have too,and am still seeing it. We are just praying that it will soon be over. ---The weather has been nice with the days very hot and the nights cold and damp. We are getting pretty sick of digging holes in the ground every night so we can sleep."

A letter from Pvt. Raymond Wright reads,"As I sit down to write this letter it is high noon in N. Africa.---I have been reading the third issue of the "Town Pump" and can assure you,I enjoyed it very much.---You can't imagine how much it means to a man to get the home town news and to know how his fellow townsmen are faring all over the world. I was sorry to hear of the deaths

of "Sparky" Bennett and "Don" Curran, and can assure you that their deaths will be avenged.---Tell all the folks to write as much as possible."

John Salo writes;"It was with great pleasure that on my return to England that I received your edition of the Ashby "Town Pump". It certainly was great to read all the news from home."

From a letter from Fred Foresman; "It is fine to read about people we know for a change. I would like very much to tell you of interesting places I have visited-- but censor regulations prohibit me from telling you. One thing you will be interested in, is tha t today I scouted up Fred Erickson .It sure was swell to see a man from home."

In still another letter, this one from Richard Wilkinson, we are told -- "Here's some of the interesting places I visited while I was in Palermo, Sicily. In a horse and buggy "taxi" , I went to the catacombs where 15,000 people were placed from 1599 to 1880. The bodies went through a process of preservation so they are mummified. Some are in tiers along the walls in boxes with glass sides and others are in a standing position in recesses. The well-to-do people have more elaborate boxes and are very well preserved as better embalming methods were used. It was a rather wierd but interesting experience. Another place I visited was the Cathedral, the largest in Sicily. There were a dozen or so altars. The altar of Santa Rosalia contained a solid silver casket which weighed 1250 pounds. One novel part was a sun dial laid diagonally across the floor. At noon each day, the sun shines through a small hole in the roof making a dot along the line and showing the month of the year.-- I'm fine and hope everyone at home is the same."

DEATHS

Manfred S. DeLibertis,South Rd. died suddenly at the Burbank Hospital Aug. 7th. He was 38 years old. He leaves a wife,Bertha E.(Hictala-Sands) DeLibertis and four sons by a former marriage.

MARRIAGES

Laurence J. St. Francis, son of Mr. and Mrs. William St. Francis of Fitchburg and Helen E. Bailey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Bailey of Piper Rd.,Ashby, were married at the Rollstone Parsonage in Fitchburg on August 21, 1944.

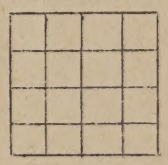
BIRTHS

A daughter,Lida Roberta, was recently born to Charles and Ellen (Wotton) Saunders of West Main St. Mr. Saunders is now in the Army.

A son was born to F-2/C and Mrs. Wilho Mayrenen (Elizabeth Inki) 75 Bennett Road, Ashby.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across:
1. What do lions do?
2. What do dogs do?
3. What do tigers do?
4. What do cats do?



Down:
1. What do we get honey from?
2. What do we see out of?
3. Afternoon social affairs.
4. Comfort

Answer on page nine.

SEVEN PINK ELEPHANTS

I had twelve bottles of whiskey in my cellar, and my wife told me to empty the contents of each and every bottle down the sink,or else------.

So I said I would, and proceeded with the unpleasant task. I withdrew the cork from the first bottle and poured the contents down the sink, with the exception of one glass, which I drank. I extracted the cork from the second bottle, and did likewise, with the exception of one glass which I drank. I then withdrew the cork from the third bottle and poured the whiskey down the sink, with

the exception of one glass, which I drank. I then withdrew the cork from the fourth sink, and poured the bottle down the glass, which I drank.

I pulled the bottle from the cork of the next, and drank one sink of it and threw the rest down the glass. I pulled the sink out of the next glass and poured the cork from the bottle. Then I corked the sink with the glass, bottled the drink and drank the pour.

When I had everything emptied, I steadied the house with one hand, counted the bottles, corks, glasses, and sinks with the other which were twenty-nine, and as the house came by I counted them again, and finally had all the houses and bottles and corks and glasses and sinks counted, except one house and one bottle which I drank.

A G.I.'s PLEA

Please Dear Lord, excuse me for not being able to ask you in the pretty words I'd like to use, the things that are in my heart.

Please Dear Lord, take me home safely and soon to those I love. This you can do by making the decision of who is right or wrong.

Please let me go back to the thirty dollar a week job and my simple home. Home, where I can turn on the radio and listen to Superman and Bing Crosby. Home, where the oil burner is always giving me trouble and the wife may reprimand me for getting the floor dirty during its repair. Home, where I can go across the street and get a quart of ice cream or a couple of pounds of bananas. Home, where I can drive up to a filling station and buy a tank full of gas or a new tire, should I require one. Home, where I can go to Church on Sunday morning if I desire or lay abed and drink coffee and read funnies. Home, where I can go to the ball game and possible throw a pop bottle at the umpire for a bad decision or maybe good-naturedly ask for his blood. Home, where I can drive along and cuss the warbling bicycle rider or the children as they run in front of my car, chasing a ball. Home, where I can go out back with a salt shaker and pick myself a juicy tomato or pull up a carrot. Home, where I can get into the bath tub Saturday night and have no fear of having to see any larger body of water. Home, where I can look out and watch the snow fall or watch a thunder storm come over the mountain knowing this is the only kind of fear I have to contend with now. Home, where in the Spring we can pick May-flowers, in the Summer, Blueberries and in the Fall, Cranberries.

Thank you, Dear Lord, for your patience and even if this does sound like a little boy's letter to Santa Clause this just gives you an idea of what I think I am fighting for.

Am I so wrong ?

Answer to cross-word puzzle on page eight.

B	I	T	E
B	I	T	E
B	I	T	E
B	I	T	E

DEFINITIONS

Mason-Dixon line: The division between "yo' all" and "youse guys."

Back Slapper: A person who hopes he can make you cough up something.

Morale: "Sumpin' dat keeps yo' feet goin' when yo' haid say yo' cain't take anudder step."

Waffle: "Pancake with a non-skid tread."

Hypocrite: A boy who comes to school with a smile on his face.

Ignorance: "When you don't know something and somebody finds it out."

List of Ashby Servicemen Continued

Kincaid, Leslie	Lewis, Edwin II
Korpi, William	Louhi, Aura
LaRoche, Harold	Lybeck, Toivo
Leighton, Richard	Malm, Eino
Leighton, Robert	Mattson, Charles